

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 150

Introduced by Assembly Member Block

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Beall, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

May 1, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 150—Relative to Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 150, as amended, Block. Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness Week.

This measure would declare the week of June 4, 2012, to June 10, 2012, inclusive, as Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California is home to a myriad of disaster threats,
- 2 such as fires, floods, mudslides, earthquakes, and terrorism; and

1 WHEREAS, Nearly every county in California faces the
2 challenge of development encroaching on rural and wildland areas;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Some areas of the state must cope with multiple
5 risks, including a network of fault lines that can produce
6 earthquakes and tsunamis, heavy rains and coastal storms that
7 create floods and mudslides, and volcanic activity from Lassen
8 Peak and Mount Shasta; and

9 WHEREAS, An unprecedented increase in the number of
10 wildfires since 2003 have claimed numerous lives, millions of
11 square acres of property, and hundreds of homes; and

12 WHEREAS, Wildfires across the state have also destroyed
13 precious infrastructure and threaten our environment; and

14 WHEREAS, Californians face innumerable fire and emergency
15 threats within their own homes; and

16 WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency
17 reports that most Americans underestimate the risk of fire in their
18 homes, and that many either lack emergency response plans or fail
19 to practice them; and

20 WHEREAS, Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms
21 are key to reducing fire deaths and injuries, and diminishes the
22 chances of dying in a fire by one-half; and

23 WHEREAS, The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
24 reports that between 2005 and 2009, almost two-thirds of all home
25 fire deaths in the United States resulted from fires in homes without
26 smoke alarms or working smoke alarms; and

27 WHEREAS, Smoke alarm failure is usually caused by missing,
28 disconnected, or dead batteries; and

29 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide (CO), often called the silent
30 killer, is an invisible, odorless, and colorless gas created by burning
31 fuels like gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and
32 methane; and

33 WHEREAS, Cooking or heating equipment that burns these
34 fuels are potential sources of CO in the home, while the vehicles
35 or generators that run in attached garages can also produce
36 dangerous levels of CO; and

37 WHEREAS, The NFPA reports that in 2005, fire departments
38 in the United States responded to an average of seven calls per
39 hour involving nonfire incidents where CO was detected; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Fire Administration reports that
2 residential clothes dryers annually account for more than 15,000
3 structure fires, 15 deaths, 400 injuries, and \$100 million in property
4 damage, and many fire officials believe that these statistics are
5 drastically understated due to data reporting deficiencies; and

6 WHEREAS, There is little doubt that fire is as powerful as any
7 other force in the natural world and, as such, deserves our utmost
8 attention and commitment to educating the public on the critical
9 importance of fire and disaster preparedness, whether these
10 emergencies are natural or manmade, or occur inside or outside
11 the home; and

12 WHEREAS, The California Fire Foundation was formed in
13 1987 as a way to recognize the courage of firefighters and the
14 perseverance and sacrifice of fire victims; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, the Foundation's mandate includes an array
16 of public education and victim assistance projects, including
17 educating the public on fire safety, disaster preparedness, and the
18 toxic effects of fires; and

19 WHEREAS, The public education programs organized and
20 produced by the Foundation have yielded life-saving results; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
24 week of June 4, 2012, to June 10, 2012, inclusive, as California
25 Fire Safety Awareness and Disaster Preparedness Week, and
26 encourages all California firefighters and the citizens they are
27 sworn to protect to participate in local educational activities within
28 their respective communities throughout that week to help our
29 state better prepare for an emergency; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.